

Anne Lange Chief, State-Federal Fisheries Division Office of Sustainable Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13317 Silver Spring, MD 20910

VIA FACSIMILE 301-713-0596

Dear Ms. Lange:

The Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) is a national, grassroots political action organization representing individual sport fishermen and the sport fishing industry. As a member of the RFA, I respectfully urge NMFS to keep the EEZ closed to striped bass fishing.

First, NMFS must address the commercial bycatch of striped bass that is already occurring in the EEZ before opening these waters to directed fisheries. Extensive coastal migrations of striped bass occur annually in the Mid-Atlantic EEZ and many of these fish are large breeders. During these migrations, stripers aggregate on bottom features that hold forage and use these areas as winter feeding grounds. This makes large numbers of bass vulnerable to commercial fishing gear such as gillnets, small and large mesh trawls, mid-water trawls and pair trawls. On the water observations have shown that there is already a significant amount of striped bass mortality in the EEZ due to commercial bycatch. It would not be appropriate to remove the moratorium until this is addressed.

Second, as Amendment 6 of the Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan states, there are concerns about the relative lack of larger fish in the stock. Many of the striped bass in the EEZ are larger females. Lifting the moratorium would place an increased pressure on the stock of older, larger fish, which Amendment 6 seeks to enhance. Thus, the long-term sustainability of the stock would be threatened.

Striped bass are far too valuable to the recreational fishing sector and coastal communities to be compromised by opening the EEZ at this time. I strongly urge NMFS to continue the striped bass harvest moratorium in the EEZ indefinitely or until time in which we more clearly understand the consequences of its removal.

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5EP-19-2003 14:49

Anne Lange Chief, State-Federal Fisheries Division Office of Sustainable Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13317 Silver Spring, MD 20910 Fax (301) 713-0596

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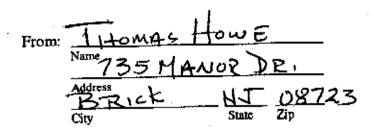
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Furthermore, an open harvest of striped bass in the EEZ could cause the fishing mortality rate to exceed the targets set in Amendment 6. Increased effort and landings in the EEZ could then result in more restrictive management measures for recreational fishermen such as higher minimum size limits, reduced bag limits, and shorter seasons which would surely add up to lost opportunities for the recreational fishing sector.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Signature

I FISH & I VOTE

973 984 1514

P.Ol

Prom: ALLEN ZIMMERMAN)

Name 20 MANOR DRIVE

Address 1500N NJ 07960

Gily State Zip

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From: KEVIN M. CHEH

Name 3 JENNY LANE

Address
OXFORD CT 06478

Anne Lange Chief, State-Federal Fisheries Division Office of Sustainable Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13317 Silver Spring, MD 20910 Fax (301) 713-0596

Dear Ms. Lange:

09/19/2003 21:40

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09/19/2003 18:49

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Respectfully Submitted,

I FISH ♦ I VOTE

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Respectfully Submitted.

From:

Mr. & Mrs. James H. Low

50 Sweetmeadow Drive
North Kingstown
Rhode Island 02852-5930
City

State

Zip

Anne Lange Chief, State-Federal Fisheries Division Office of Sustainable Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13317 Silver Spring, MD 20910 Fax (301) 713-0596

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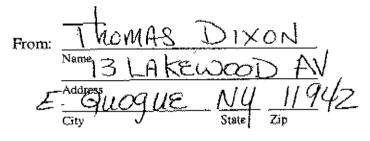
Respectfully Submitted,

I FISH • I VOTE

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Signature

Respectfully Submitted,

I FISH + I VOTE

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PAGE 01

From: DIANE

Anne Lange Chief, State-Federal Fisheries Division Office of Sustainable Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13317 Silver Spring, MD 20910 Fax (301) 713-0596

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09/19/2003 21:35

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Respectfully Submitted,

Sep 19 03 08:38p

End User

678-6148

From: LOUIS D'ANNUCCI Name 332 N. HICKORY STREET Address MASSAPEQUA

Anne Lange Chief, State-Federal Fisheries Division Office of Sustainable Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13317 Silver Spring, MD 20910 Fax (301) 713-0596

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10/27/2003

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09/19/2003 20:35

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Pateril H. Gung.

Name 602 Lauseana Scail

Address Discores Mills 49. 080/5

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Anne Lange Chief, State-Federal Fisheries Division Office of Sustainable Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13317 Silver Spring, MD 20910 Fax (301) 713-0596

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Respectfully Submitted,

Signature

Sep 19 03 03:49p

From: Lobert Glesson

Name

111 W. 15 St

Address Sh.p Botton NT 08008

City State Zip

Anne Lange Chief, State-Federal Fisheries Division Office of Sustainable Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13317 Silver Spring, MD 20910 Fax (301) 713-0596

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Sep 19 03 04:33p

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Ed Miller @ Holophane

856-914-0232

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SDWARDC. MILLER Name 720 LINCOLN D.

Anne Lange Chief, State-Federal Fisheries Division Office of Sustainable Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13317 Silver Spring, MD 20910 Fax (301) 713-0596

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From: Hugust

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From:		Mr. Philip Fowler 7 Croydon Dr. North Merrick, NY	11566	jája.	
	Address				
	City	State	<del></del> -	Zip	-

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10/27/2003 21:53 NMFS SF 301-713-0596 o 93014272515 NO.928 **D**017

1 609 984 8495 SEP 19 2003 16:50 FR DIV OF PROPERTY MGMT 609 984 8495 TB 913017130596

From: <u>James M. Greschak</u>

Name

165 Penn Lyle Rd.

Address

West Windson NJ 08550

City

State

Zip

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Respectfully Submitted,

I FISH • I VOTE

ame M. Kurhak

P.01/01

From: TERRENCE R. FARLEY

Name
834 SANDPIPER DRIVE

Address
LANDKA HARROR NJ 08734

City State Zip

Anne Lange Chief, State-Federal Fisheries Division Office of Sustainable Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13317 Silver Spring, MD 20910 Fax (301) 713-0596

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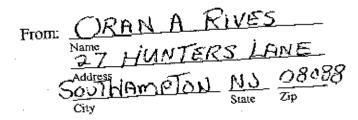
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Respectfully Submitted,

19 Sep 03 03:01p

George Francisco

609~654-8569



Anne Lange Chief, State-Federal Fisheries Division Office of Sustainable Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13317 Silver Spring, MD 20910 Fax (301) 713-0596

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Respectfully Submitted,

10/27/2003

21:53

NMFS SF  $301-713-0596 \rightarrow 93014272515$ 

2152363323

GEHRET WIRE WORKS IN

NO.928 **D**020

01

PAGE

09/19/2003 18:08

2152363323

From:

Anne Lange Chief, State-Federal Fisheries Division Office of Sustainable Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13317 Silver Spring, MD 20910 Fax (301) 713-0596

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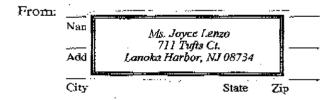
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Respectfully Submitted,

609 693 1377

FROM : THE LENZ PHOTOGRAPHER FAX NO. : 609 693-1377

Sep. 19 2003 05:00PM P1



Anne Lange Chief, State-Federal Fisheries Division Office of Sustainable Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13317 Silver Spring, MD 20910 Fax (301) 713-0596

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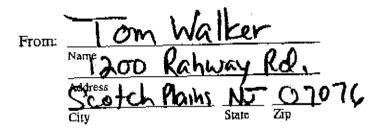
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Signature



Anne Lange Chief, State-Federal Fisheries Division Office of Sustainable Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13317 Silver Spring, MD 20910 Fax (301) 713-0596

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Respectfully Submitted,

Signature

From: John P. Bergamino

Name

163 East frozect St.

Address

Hazketts town N.S. 07840

City State Zip

Anne Lange Chief, State-Federal Fisheries Division Office of Sustainable Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13317 Silver Spring, MD 20910 Fax (301) 713-0596

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Respectfully Submitted,

Sep 19 03 05:40p

Jeff Webb

203-861-0796

р. 1

State

Anne Lange Chief, State-Federal Fisheries Division Office of Sustainable Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13317 Silver Spring, MD 20910 Fax (301) 713-0596

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Respectfully Submitted,

I FISH • I VOTE

10/28/2003 09:07AM 10/27/2003

09/19/2003 17:58

21:53

7324492305

NMFS SF  $301-713-0596 \rightarrow 93014272515$ 7324492305

BILL FINNEGAN

NO.928 **P**025

PAGE 01

Anne Lange

Chief. State-Federal Fisheries Division Office of Sustainable Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service

1315 East-West Highway, Room 13317

Silver Spring, MD 20910

Fax (301) 713-0596

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Respectfully Submitted,

Sep 19 03 05:46p

NMFS SF  $301-713-0596 \rightarrow 93014272515$ 973 625 8202

973-625-9202

р. 1

NO.928

Linda Wistermayer

Anne Lange Chief, State-Federal Fisheries Division Office of Sustainable Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13317 Silver Spring, MD 20910 Fax (301) 713-0596

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10/27/2003 NMFS SF 301-713-0596 → 93014272515

6109488499

REMAX

NO.928 **D**027

09/19/2003 05:59 6109488499

PAGE 01

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671

Anne Lange

Chief, State-Federal Fisheries Division Office of Sustainable Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service

1315 East-West Highway, Room 13317

Silver Spring, MD 20910

Fax (301) 713-0596

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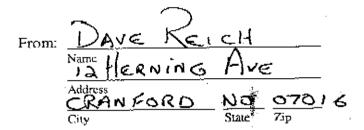
10/27/2003 21:53 NMFS SF 301-713-0596 → 93014272515

NO.928 **7**028

FROM :

FAX NO. :

Sep. 19 2003 06:24PM P1



Anne Lange Chief, State-Federal Fisheries Division Office of Sustainable Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13317 Silver Spring, MD 20910 Fax (301) 713-0596

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